

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, UNCTAD, EEC, OECD

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION POSITION FOR UNCTAD COMMITTEE
ON COMMODITIES

REF: A. USOECD 29944

B. STATE 273507, PARA 13

1. SUMMARY. EC COMMISSION DEL TO TRADE COMMITTEE
WORKING PARTY HAS TOLD US COMMISSION HOPES EC WILL ADOPT
"CONSTRUCTIVE" APPROACH AT UNCTAD COMMODITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING AND OTHER STEPS LEADING TO UNCTAD IV BY FAVORING
EXAMINATION OF POSSIBLE APPLICATION OF UNCTAD SECRET-
ARIAT'S "INTEGRATED PROGRAM" TO TROPICAL PRODUCTS.
END SUMMARY.

2. AT TIME OF FIRST TCWP DISCUSSION OF POSITIONS FOR
UNCTAD COMMITTEE ON COMMODITIES MEETING IN FEBRUARY
(REF A), EC COMMISSION REP SALTER IN CONFIDENCE GAVE
US COMMISSION'S VIEW ON STRATEGY TO BE FOLLOWED BY
GROUP B AT UNCTAD COMMITTEE MEETING AND SUBSEQUENT
STAGES LEADING UP TO UNCTAD IV. SUBJECT WILL BE DIS-
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CUSSED AT EC COORDINATION MEETING JANUARY 16.

3. COMMISSION SEES EC (AND OTHERS IN GROUP B) IN DILEMMA. THEY WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE UNABLE TO ACCEPT PROPOSALS TO COME OUT OF DAKAR MINISTERIAL MEETING OF GROUP OF 77 VERY SHORTLY BEFORE COMMODITIES COMMITTEE MEETING. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE EC, AT LEAST, AS INDICATED REF B, DOES NOT WANT TO BE COMPLETELY NEGATIVE, EVEN IN FACE OF TOUGH AND UNCOMPROMISING POSITIONS THAT 77 ARE LIKELY TO ADOPT.

4. COMMISSION COULD NOT ACCEPT PROPOSALS OF 77 FOR INDEXATION AND/OR CARTEL ACTION, SALTER SAID, BUT UNCTAD SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSAL FOR INTEGRATED APPROACH MAY PROVIDE SOME LIMITED POSSIBILITIES FOR MORE POSITIVE REACTIONS BY GROUP B. ALTHOUGH SALTER SAID THE COMMISSION WOULD NOT WANT TO SAY SO FLATLY, IT DOES NOT ACCEPT THE BASIC IDEA OF A GLOBAL APPROACH TO ALL COMMODITIES AND WOULD NOT FAVOR DISCUSSING THE CONCEPTS ACROSS THE BOARD. EC WOULD INSTEAD SAY THAT THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT'S APPROACH IS INTERESTING AND REQUIRES ANALYSIS OF ITS CONSTITUENT PARTS AND APPLICATION TO SPECIFIC COMMODITIES.

5. NEITHER TEMPERATE-ZONE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS (WHICH ARE TO BE NEGOTIATED IN THE MTN) NOR INDUSTRIAL RENEWABLE AND NON-RENEWABLE RAW MATERIALS (FOR WHICH THE EC DOES NOT HAVE ITS OWN POLICIES) ARE SUITABLE FOR DISCUSSION IN UNCTAD, SALTER SAID. THEREFORE, THE POSSIBILITIES SEEM TO THE COMMISSION TO BE NARROWED TO TROPICAL PRODUCTS--COFFEE, TEA, COCOA, BANANAS, SPICES, ETC. THE COMMISSION WOULD THEREFORE WANT TO SAY THAT THE EC IS PREPARED TO LOOK AT A COORDINATED, INTEGRATED APPROACH LIMITED TO THESE PRODUCTS, WHICH ARE BASICALLY LIMITED TO LDC PRODUCERS AND WHICH WOULD PROVIDE POSSIBLY MANAGEABLE SCOPE FOR ACTION. SALTER NOTED THAT THE ARRANGEMENTS ON COFFEE AND COCOA ARE BOTH TO BE REVIEWED IN 1975 IN ANY CASE.

6. SALTER SAID THAT THESE VIEWS HAVE BEEN ENDORSED AT THE COMMISSION LEVEL. HE THOUGHT THAT GERMANY MIGHT

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BE THE MOST RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT THE COMMISSION'S APPROACH AND MIGHT LOOK TO THE US FOR VIEWS. HE HOPED US VIEWS MIGHT BE CLOSE TO THOSE OF THE COMMISSION.
TURNER

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